THE OGDEN STANDARD

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

THE MAGIC HAND

HARRY VISITS THE ZOO

BY CHARLES BATTELL LOOMIS

ONE day Harry Kimberly was invited to visit his aunt who lived in New York. A trip to the city was no new thing to him, for his father had taken him on two occasions, but he had never been to the Bronx Zoological Gardens, and the very next day after his arrival he went up by himself.

When Harry, who had made the journey by the hot subway, reached the Bronx he felt so warm that he stepped into a candy store to get a glass of soda water. On the way out he was stopped by a tramp, who said, "Say, boy, can't yer give me a nickel? Me throat's near splittin' from dryness."

Harry felt in his pocket. "I'm awfully sorry," said he, pleasantly, "but I just spent all my spending money on a glass of soda. If you'd come along sooner you might have had the soda."

"Soda water's bad for me lungs," said the man with a whimsical smile. "Well, how is it up in the country?"

"How did you know I was from the country?" asked Harry in surprise.

"Well, because you didn't give me no impidence, for one thing, an'—well, you never got that tan in the city."

Although a tramp, the man seemed a pleasant spoken sort of man. Harry walked along with him and they entered the park together, although an attendant looked at the man rather closely.

It was not long before Harry had told his companion all about himself. The fellow seemed much interested in the account of his having made a tiger as small as a kitten and said:—"Say, wouldn't it be great to make an elephant as small as a bull pup or make a gee-raffe so small it could eat out of your hand? Come on up to the bear's cage and get busy with the bears."

"No," said Harry, "I don't care to use my power in here, because it might make trouble. You see, the tiger had escaped, and I made him small so that they could catch him without danger, but those animals are all safe and it would bother the keepers if I made them small."

Darted Up Into a Tall Elm.

Harry and the tramp made their way to the monkey house. Here, after watching the little monkeys for a while, they made their way to a cage in which were a chimpanzee and a red haired orang-outang with the most laughable face imaginable. He would sit on his trapeze and look down at his under lip, for all the world like a bashful boy about to speak a piece.

"Oh, say, just make him little, will yer?" asked the tramp. "I like to see what the chimp'd say when he found a baby monk there."

"No," said Harry, "it might make trouble."

"Say," said the tramp with an injured expression, "ain't we frien's any more? I'd do as much for you. I let you off from loanin' me a nickel, and I gave yer me company up here, an' now w'en I ask yer to help me to a little fun by turnin' out a small orang-outang you're afraid of makin' trouble. We're all alone here now. Just get him down here to the front of the cage and make him as small as an organ grinder's monk."

Harry wavered, and was lost. He thought that if he made the orang-outang small for a minute or two no harm could come to him, as the chimpanzee seemed a peaceable animal, so stepping quickly over to the cage he put his right hand in through the bars, and the orang-outang was there in a moment, thinking he had something good to eat.

As soon as Harry touched his red hair he wished him small, and that moment the orang-outang became small enough to go into a coat pocket. At this the chimpanzee made a spring for the orang-outang and chased him up and down and around the cage, but always the little fellow kept out of reach of the chimpanzee and never a noise did either one make.

The tramp stood close to the cage as if he were expecting the escape of the orang-outang. Never having gotten out of the cage by way of the bars, the monkey did not realize that he could do it until he was hard pressed by the chimpanzee; he saw between the bars, and the next moment the tramp had him and was out of the monkey house like a flash.

In a second Harry realized what had happened. Now he knew why the tramp had been so insistent. He had much more than a nickel now; he had an orang-outang good for $100 anywhere.

"Stop thief!" cried Harry, who put after the tramp.

"What's the matter?" asked a workman.

"That fellow's stolen the big orang-outang," said Harry as he ran.

"That's not true. The orang-outang's nearly as large as he is."

"It's small now. Hurry! Get him!"

The man ran, closely followed by dozens of idlers until at least one hundred were in hot pursuit of the tramp.

He was a very fast runner and he would surely have escaped with his prize if a quick witted workman who was raking leaves had not thrown his rake in such a way that it tripped up the tramp. He fell heavily and before he could get up Harry was upon him.

As fast as he could think he laid his right hand on the tramp's shoulder and wished him small; and then, his sense of fun helping him, he laid his left hand on the orang-outang and wished him natural size again.

And then the orang-outang, quick at copying, picked up the little tramp, who was not more than eighteen inches high, and darted up into a tall elm, going to the extreme end of it and sitting there dangling the poor tramp by the ankle.

"Now," thought Harry, "if he drops him and kills him it will be my fault. Oh, I wish I hadn't minded the old tramp."

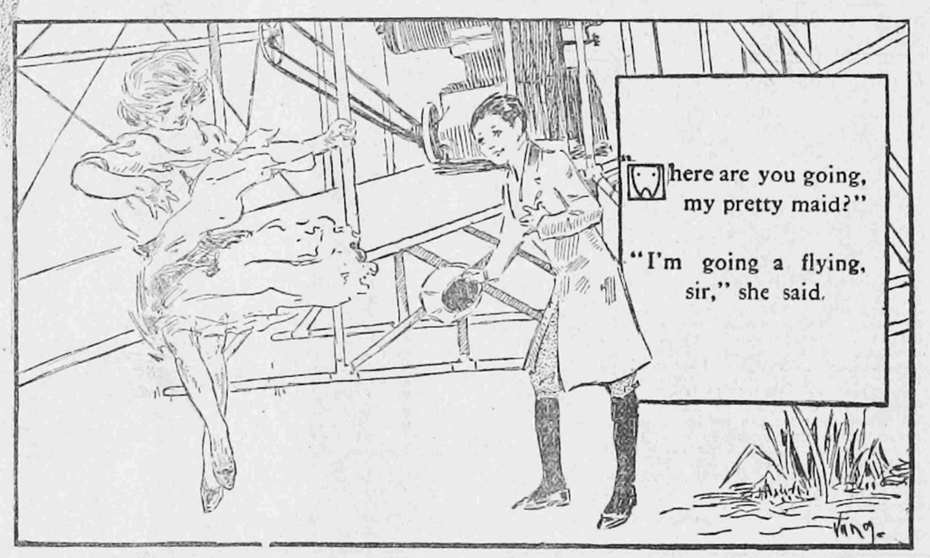
But the orang-outang had no intention of dropping the man. He took him to be a small monkey dressed up, and merely wanted to have fun with him. He threw him up in the air and caught him, hugged him to his hairy chest, took him by the waistband and shook him over the walk, but never lost hold of him.

The poor tramp was speechless with terror. In his diminished size it looked to him as if he were at least six hundred feet above the earth, and he expected to be smashed to pieces on the path.

It was not long, however, before the keeper of the orang-outang arrived on the scene, and the moment he called the animal it ran to the trunk of the tree, leaped ten feet into the boughs of a maple, and then jumping from branch to branch it soon reached the ground. Here it flung the tramp away as a girl might throw a doll of which she had tired, and the little tramp picked himself up and started to slink out of the park.

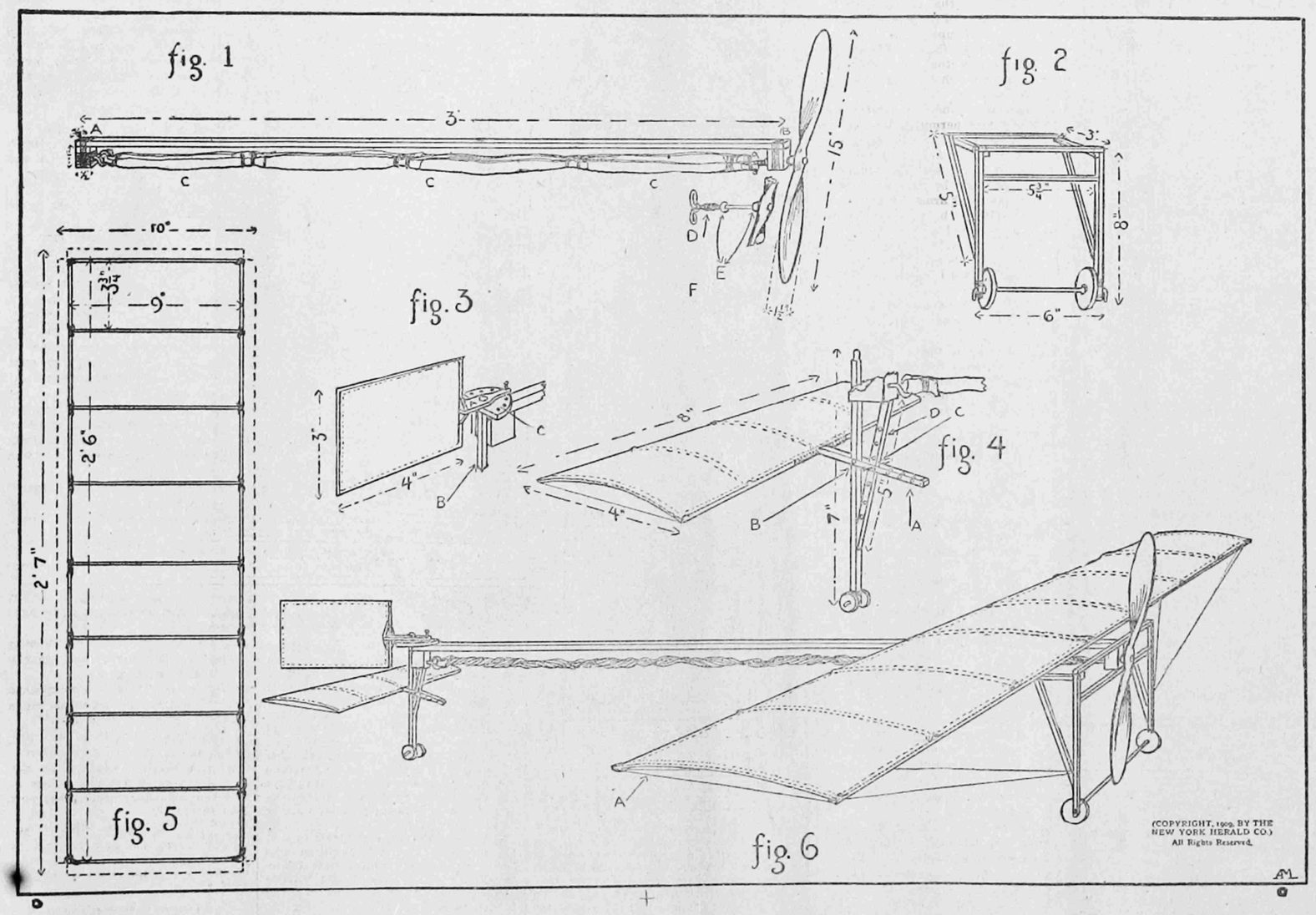
But a policeman came up and the tramp was told that he could take his choice of being arrested and sent to the workhouse or working there in the park at raking up leaves, and he chose the latter.

Harry made no effort to restore him to his normal size, as he was angry with him for having caused all the trouble, and so to this day if you see a man in the Bronx Park about eighteen inches high, with a little rake about two feet long, you may be sure that it is Harry's tramp.



HOW TO MAKE A BOY'S AEROPLANE.

By Arthur M. Langworthy



MOST every boy with a mechanical "streak" knows that the aeroplane is usually either a biplane or a monoplane. A biplane has two sets of large main planes, as in the Wrights' machines, and it is extremely difficult for any but a trained mechanician to build. The monoplane, having but one set of main planes, is much easier to construct, and it flies every bit as well.

First prepare the "backbone" of the monoplane. A three foot rattan stick three-eighths of an inch square is best and lightest, but white wood or pine will do. Then cut the two end braces (A-B, Fig. 1), each one inch high by half an inch wide by one-quarter inch thick. First attach the end brace (A, Fig. 1) to end as shown. Use fish glue and then wire firmly in place as shown. A couple of very thin small wire nails are now driven into the top to reinforce. Don't drive directly in centre. If the wiring is good and tight all danger of splitting from the nail is prevented.

Having got the principal framework, the next problem is the motive power. This is supplied by the "rubber band motor" (C-C-C, Fig 1) and is the easiest part of the whole construction. First insert the screw eye into the end brace (A, Fig. 1). The screw eye must be in so tight that it is immovable and no amount of pressure can turn it.

Then bore a hole through the end brace (B, Fig. 1). The best way to do this without splitting is to heat a wire red hot and burn it through. It is now ready for the propeller "shaft" to be inserted. The hole should be a trifle larger than the long wire nail (D, Fig. 1), which is the shaft. This brings us to the propeller.

You can fashion it of very thin tin and solder to the shaft or whittle it out from a thin pine slab. The best way is to find a two bladed toy boat propeller and copy that as you model. It should be 15 inches long and 1½ inches wide in its widest part.

Now drive the shaft nail through the hub so the propeller is firm and immovably fixed upon it and then put on the "bearing" (E, Fig. 1). The bearing may consist of any small button or bead with a hole pierced in it. Then insert the shaft through the end brace (B, Fig. 1) and slip on the other bearing.

Then with a pair of strong pliers bend the end as shown, after which wire the section (F, Fig. 1) so the shaft will not slip forward through the shaft hole. Then attach the end brace in place (B, Fig. 1) by the same means used in placing the end brace.

Procure the long, heavy rubber bands (C-C-C, Fig 1), cutting each so its ends may be attached to the other bands as shown. Smaller rubber straps or string may be used to fasten the bands together. A large number of smaller bands may be also strung together to serve if you can't find the big bands, so long as the winding up principle can be carried out.

That is why the shaft end with the propeller revolves while the other end is fixed and immovable. The propeller is turned round and round by hand until the bands are all twisted as tight as possible (see Fig. 6). The second the propeller is released the bands begin to relax, which operation unwinds them, thus turning the shaft at high speed, and there is your "rubber band motor."

Fig. 2 shows the landing braces, which you can make of pine strips one-eighth inch square and cut to the sizes marked. In fastening together fish glue reinforced by fine wire at the joints will give the proper stability. Fig. 6 shows the braces in position.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged view of the rudder and mechanism. One and one-sixteenth inch bamboo strips are the best for the rudder frame, though pine will do. The best way to fasten this light bambo together is to first glue the joints and then bind with shoemaker's thread. Don't try to use tacks. This method should be employed in all light framework.

The tiller (A, Fig. 3) turns on the tack pivot of the stern post (B, Fig. 3) and is fixed at the angle wanted by the movable pin in the different holes of the semi-circular base (C, Fig. 3).

The rear or "lighting plane" is shown in the enlarged view of Fig. 4. Construct the framework of the plane of one and one-sixteenth inch bamboo strips cut to sizes marked, fastening together with glue and shoemaker's thread as in the rudder frame.

The lifting plane governs the height of an aeroplane's flight. For instance, if you want the airship to make a long, level flight the plane should be set horizontally. A gradual upward flight means a slight dip of the plane downward. Here the same principle of the steering gear is used, only up and down instead.

The projection (A, Fig. 4) is cut of two thin tin strips, the ends of which are bent to and firmly wired to the plane framework. The projection is pivoted on the rudder post at B, Fig. 4, by a small wire nail, and can be tilted into any position by removing the pin (C, Fig. 4) and inserting same in the other holes of the diagonal support (D Fig. 4). The rudder post is 3-16 inch square and the diagonal supporter 3-16 inch wide by ¼ inch thick.

The large "main" plane is shown in Fig. 5. First construct the framework in the same way you did the framework for the lifting plane. Cut the strips to the sizes marked in Fig. 5. The two long strips should be ⅛ inch wide by 1-16 inch thick, but the nine small strips should be 1-16 inch square. When the framework is bound together firmly the "canvas" is ready to be stretched upon it.

The method employed applies to the "clothing" of the rudder and the lifting plane also.

Chinese silk is the lightest, strongest and best material, but every boy cannot get it, so white cambric, muslin or any very light cloth will do. Cut the cloth out, leaving a half inch margin for the flaps all around, with the notching at the four corners, as shown by the dotted lines of Fig. 5. Then brush glue along the flaps and turn them over the framework, gluing down firmly all along the edges.

After the plane is thoroughly dry you may curve it (also the lifting plane) by wiring the ends, as shown by A, Fig. 6. Fasten it firmly to the "backbone" by brads, and further steady it by wiring it further, as shown.

And now as to flying the completed aeroplane. No airship is liable to "behave" on the first trials. Your rubber bands may not be adjusted exactly right to give most power; your lifting planes may not be tilted right; the wind may be too strong or a dozen little things may annoy you, or maybe you don't know how to launch properly.

Don't give any strong initial push, but simply let the airship fly out of your hands with as little exertion on your part as possible when the propeller is released, for in flying a model aeroplane proper launching is half the secret of a long, successful flight.

Christmas Parties for Children.

CHRISTMAS parties are lots of fun, and all boys and girls who possibly can should plan to give a Christmas festivity of some sort for their friends during the holidays. There are all sorts of things to be done at Christmas parties, but whatever one selects as the proper diversion for the afternoon or evening it is apt to be satisfactory because of the Christmas spirit. This Christmas spirit is a charming thing which always suggests jollity and kindness, bright faces, holly and laurel, Christmas trees, warm fires and general gayety. But if everybody left it for somebody else to provide the Christmas spirit there wouldn't be much of it, and so every single one of us should try very, very hard to do whatever we can to contribute our little part.

One of the things we can do is to help get up Christmas parties. This may sound very imposing and as if it were going to take a great deal of time and money, but there can be Christmas parties which cost very little of either, especially of money.

One very nice kind of Christmas party is the sort at which a little play is given by some of the children. There have been plays published in the children's page which would do for this purpose, and possibly you have kept them, but if not you can easily get from a public library a book in which there are plays suitable for children to perform at Christmas.

Another pleasant sort of party is for children who know how to sing and who have singing teachers who will help them to learn the old Christmas songs, and learn them so well that they will be a pleasure to listen to. This will give great pleasure to older people if done by children who have good voices and have really studied the songs.

For large children's parties, dancing, especially the Virginia reel, and games are the proper sort of entertainment. Christmas party games are the old fashioned ones in which everybody will join. Blind man's buff is one of the best things to play, going to Jerusalem, charades, &c. Bobbing for apples is a favorite Christmas sport in England, and is lots of fun if one doesn't mind getting a little water on one's best clothes.

For a smaller Christmas party, where dancing and the games mentioned are not possible, candy making is good sport. The candy should be old fashioned molasses, such as requires pulling. Then there is popcorn, which is lots of fun to do, and charades, which are always interesting. Quieter games, such as lotto, picture puzzles, &c., are also good, but a Christmas party should be kept as lively as possible.

If it is a large or expensive Christmas party there is always a Jack Horner pie of some sort. Every year there are new ways of making the Jack Horner pie, which may either be put in the centre of the table or hung from the ceiling. The pie is made of colored tissue paper and stuffed with prizes and there is a ribbon attached to each prize. Attached to the other end of the ribbon is a boy or girl who is a guest at the Christmas party.

When the proper moment arrives the host or hostess says pull, and everybody does pull, whereupon the paper tears and out comes a delightful gift for every one.

Now, of course, this seems expensive, but if you make your own Christmas pie you won't find it so. Lots of quaint little gifts can be found for five or ten cents, and you can make the pie of a large tin or porcelain bowl or pan. It should be quite large and deep, and you should make a ruche of crepe paper to go around the sides. Then put your gifts inside the pie, wrapping each one in as many layers of paper as possible, so it will be amusing to unfasten it. Then take a large sheet of crepe paper, cut it the shape of the bowl or pan, only larger, and cut tiny slits all around the centre large enough for baby ribbon to be passed through. The ribbon is fastened to each gift and then put through the holes in the paper. Each person present at the party has one end of ribbon.